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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2004

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**ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION BREAKS GROUND ON
NEW PLYMOUTH TRIAL COURT**

The Romney Administration today held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of the new \$58 million Plymouth Trial Court facility being constructed at the site of the former County Jail and House of Correction on Obery Street in Plymouth. Governor Romney's Secretary for Administration and Finance, Eric Kriss, was joined at the celebration by Massachusetts Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court Margaret H. Marshall. Chief Justice for Administration and Management, Robert A. Mulligan, presided over the ceremony, which also featured Commissioner David B. Perini of the Division of Capital Asset Management, the agency managing the construction of the new courthouse. Senator Therese Murray and State Representative Vinny deMacedo were also among the honored guest speakers.

"I look forward with great anticipation to the opening of the new Plymouth Trial Court, a modern center of justice in an historic community," said Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall. "Judges, lawyers, court staff, and the community they serve deserve, and will now have, a beautiful, well-designed courthouse of which they can be proud. I am deeply grateful to the leaders of the Legislative and Executive branches who have made this possible."

"This state of the art courthouse will provide a safe, accessible environment for the citizens of Plymouth County who come to the courts seeking justice. I am very pleased that five trial court departments will be located in the same facility, resulting in a sharing of resources and a more expeditious and timely delivery of justice," said Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert A. Mulligan. "I thank all who have been involved in this worthy endeavor."

After a rigorous review by the Romney Administration, the design of the new Plymouth Courthouse was expanded to incorporate all of the major court departments serving the Plymouth area. Like the new Worcester Courthouse currently under construction, the Plymouth Courthouse is also moving forward under an alternative delivery method known as "Construction Manager at Risk," a method commonly used by the private sector, that significantly streamlines the construction process.

"I am very pleased to see this project go forward, particularly since this new courthouse represents the best in modern and efficient court design," said Eric Kriss. "By expanding the design of the courthouse, all of the court departments will now be housed under the same roof, resulting in efficiency in court operations, and "one-stop shopping" for the public needing to access the courts.

The goal of the design is to provide state-of-the-art facilities for all users of the courthouse – judges, staff, lawyers and the public. The new 168,000 square foot building will house the Superior, District, Juvenile, Probate and Family, and Housing Court departments in a single building. Nine courtrooms will be constructed to serve these various departments, along with office space for the local District Attorney's Office, a law library, temporary holding cells, and numerous support and "transaction" spaces for the public to conduct court-related business. The new courthouse will feature modern interior circulation patterns, natural lighting in all courtrooms, and will be fully handicap accessible.

Site utilities and roadways for the new courthouse are already being completed under a separate project, and are being shared in part with the new Registry of Deeds building that is being built by Plymouth County adjacent to the new site. The new courthouse is expected to be completed by February 2007. Funding for the courthouse project has been fully secured through the 1998 Courts Facilities Bond Bill (Chapter 189 of the Acts of 1998)